



Community Update re: vaccines, COVID-19 and Health Services

Dean Of Students, Coe College <dos@coe.edu>

Thu, Aug 19, 2021 at 5:26 PM

Reply-To: dos@coe.edu

To: All Students <allstudents@coe.edu>

Dear Kohawks,

We write with some important information on several topics. Please take a moment to review.

Vaccine Rates

As a campus community, our vaccination rates rival the best in the country for schools like ours. As of today:

- 98% of our full-time faculty are fully vaccinated
- 94% of our faculty and staff have had at least one dose, and 93% are fully vaccinated.
- 80% of our total student population has had at least one dose, and 79% are fully vaccinated
- 1,449 faculty, staff and students have had at least one dose of vaccination.

This is a milestone, and an opportunity to truly celebrate the community that lives the “Protect the Nest” philosophy. Our next goal - 85%! We will have a Pfizer vaccine clinic on campus again in a few weeks so we can get a second dose in for everyone who vaccinated in the last week, and it will be our next opportunity for those who have not yet taken the step to do so!

COVID-19 updates on campus

We are also experiencing an unprecedented low positive testing rate in our community for the start of the term.

- For community members who are not registered with vaccination, more than 250 community members have tested in the last week, and **one student and one staff member tested positive**. Everyone is healthy, only one person was a close contact, and that person is fully vaccinated and has tested negative.
- In addition to our testing results, one student is in quarantine, and another is in isolation at home due to testing positive before they arrived on campus.
- We still have a few students who need to report their status to the college and that list is available to faculty and staff. **Newly registered students were added today**. Those students will not attend class until we determine what is needed.
- If a student does test positive or is determined to be a close contact, the COVID response team will continue to work through isolation and quarantine needs on campus. Resources for reporting and next steps have been shared with students, and are available on the [Coe website](#) for review.

COVID-19 updates in Linn County

Unfortunately, the vaccine rates are not as high in Linn County and the community is experiencing a surge. Positive test rates are approximately 15% and the local hospitals are experiencing some capacity challenges. The best thing our campus community can do is stay close to the nest for now.

Testing and Health Services Update

Many of our students (approximately 40%) who have not registered for vaccination are testing weekly, and we hope to increase testing as resources become available. Unfortunately the grant program Coe utilized

through Hy-Vee, which provided free testing, is ending so we will need to consider different options for continuing surveillance testing on campus.

Additionally, we are going to have a vacancy in our Health Services area for a time, as both our Registered Nurse and ARNP staff positions are soon-to-be vacant. In the coming days, we will be sending resources for accessing healthcare in the community during this period of vacancy in staffing.

Kohawks - we should be proud of our community! Many other colleges around the country are working toward the goal we have achieved. Let's keep the momentum going, and stay safe and healthy!

Emily Barnard
Director of Health and Wellness

Paula O'Loughlin
Provost/Interim Dean of Students
Title IX Coordinator

Student Life
pronouns: she/her/hers
poloughlin@coe.edu



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